

A CALL TO ACTION

MAJOR EDUCATIONAL ISSUES FOR THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY

The Puerto Rican and the larger Latino community have serious concerns about critical educational issues relating to our children. In our opinion, the Newark Board of Education is failing to provide a sound and meaningful education for our students. Generally, our community views the Board of Education as neglectful of our needs and of our youth.

Presently, our community feels alienated by the political maneuvering of the Board of Education. The Puerto Rican community has worked to elect the Newark Board of Education, and the time has come for these elected officials to address the long standing concerns of our community.

The Puerto Rican community urges the Newark Board of Education to give immediate attention to the following issues:

• Construction of an elementary school in the North Ward.

The schools in the North Ward, where the majority of Latinos reside, are extremely overcrowded. A new school was approved and resources allocated, yet our community continues to wait needlessly for implementation of these plans.

• The basic skills education at the elementary level must be improved. This early academic weakness contributes to our junior and senior high school drop-out problem.

• Major resources must be dedicated to stem the high drop-out rate among Puerto Ricans and other Latinos, as well as all students.

• Puerto Rican principals should be assigned at Harrison High School and McKinley Elementary.

• Puerto Rican and Latin-American History and Culture must be infused into the curriculum from K-12.

• Puerto Ricans should be employed at positions of administrative responsibilities on all levels at the central office.

• Minority set-aside contracts must become more accessible to Latino businesses.

EXCLUDED BY: (Organizations for identification purposes only)

EXCLUDED PER: (Organizations were proposed for identification purposes)

William Agreitt: Attorney

Ernest Alfonso: Former Newark Board of Education member

Armando Aviles: Hispanic Families for Better Education

Janette Colon-Jorge: Pres., Puerto Rican Educators Association (PREA)

Ed Dominguez: Director, PACH

Joe Hernandez: NJ Hispanic-American Chamber of Commerce

Armando Medina: Social Worker

Edison Medina: Hispanic Law Enforcement Society (HLEX County)

Angel Milan: Director of Bilingual Education, Essex County College

Eddie M. Savado Sr.: New Jersey State Civil Mobil Petrol

Angel Mieres: A-1 Computers, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Essex)

Walter Ortiz: Former Newark Board of Education member

Miguel Sanchez: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Essex County)

Peter J. Santana: Attorney

Edilberto Valencia: Hispanic Families for Better Education

Jose E. Velasquez: Vice-Pres., Puerto Rican Educators Association (PREA)

Rolando Velasquez: Parent, Homeowner, Newark Resident.

Presented to the Newark Board of Education
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FOR PRESS INFORMATION:

(201) 484-8591